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Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Edwin F. Lowry, Director
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 31, 2003

COMMUNITY UPDATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AT FORMER FULLERTON MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT (MGP) SITE, 144 W. WALNUT AVENUE, FULLERTON

Dear Community Member:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) would like to update you on recent events involving an ongoing environmental investigation at the Former Fullerton MGP site. The site, owned by The Gas Company, was located at 144 W. Walnut Avenue. The Gas Company is continuing to work, under the oversight of DTSC, to identify the nature and location of contaminated waste generated by MGP operations. A cleanup plan to determine how best to remove the primary contaminant of concern, called Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) or "Lampblack" is being prepared. Lampblack is a powdery or granular substance similar to soot, and is a byproduct of the MGP process. Lampblack commonly contains a group of organic chemicals known as PAHs. PAHs can pose a health risk to those directly exposed to moderate or high levels over a prolonged period of time.

Last year, a community survey mailed to the community revealed a low level of interest. More recent community feedback and interest has been received by DTSC. DTSC will hold a public meeting in early 2004 to address the community's questions or concerns. Details of the meeting will be announced in a future mail out.

Earlier this year, the City of Fullerton built Union Pacific Park just south of the former MGP. Soil samples obtained a year ago revealed low levels of PAHs. More recent soil samples obtained within the park revealed higher levels of PAHs. As a precaution, limited areas of the park have been fenced off to prevent any direct public contact. More sampling at the park was conducted in late December 2003. Results will be made available in the cleanup plan and discussed during the future public meeting.

If you have any concerns about any project activity, please contact the Project Manager, Ms. Rania Zabaneh (714) 484-5479 or myself, Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354. DTSC is helping to improve the conditions at the site and looks forward to working further within your community.

Sincerely,

Stacey A. Lear
Public Participation Specialist